(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme of the Department of Women and Child Development aims at holistic development of children (0-6 years) and expectant and nursing mothers from disadvantaged sections by providing integrated services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education. It is a Centrally sponsored scheme, wherein the Union Government is responsible for programme planning and providing operating costs and the State Governments are responsible for programme implementation and providing supplementary nutrition from the States resources. The ICDS Scheme was introduced in 33 Blocks (Projects) in 1975, it was gradually expanded to 5652 Projects, of which 5271 projects have become operational as on 30.6.2004.

Centrally, services under the scheme are being provided to about 438.62 lakh beneficiaries, comprising of about 366.22 lakh children (0-6 years) and about 72.40 lakh expectant and nursing mothers through a network of about 6 lakh Anganwadi Centres.

Stopping illegal foetus examination and female foeticide

†260. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued stringent directions to hospitals and clinics to stop illegal foetus examination and female foeticide;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action that will be taken by Government in case any incident of female foeticide takes place in any clinic or hospital in spite of the said directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act, 1994 and Amendment 2003 regulates, though, does not prohibit the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques including ultrasonography for detecting genetic abnormalities or other sex linked disorders in the foetus. The Act prevents the misuse of the technique for sex determination that could lead to elimination of female foetus.

The implementation of the Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the appropriate authorities appointed under the Act at State, district as well at Sub-district levels. The States/UTs have been requested to ensure wide publicity to the provisions of the Act/Rules and to effectively implement the same including stringent action against the delinquent service providers. As per the provisions of the Act/Rules every clinic/centre shall send a report in respect of all pre-conception or procedures/tests conducted by them to the Appropriate Authority every month.

(c) Violations of the Act are punishable with imprisonments up to 5 years and fine up to Rs. 1 lakh.

Ad-hocism at AIIMS

261. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Institute of Medical Sciences continues to real under the agony of *ad-hocism* as there are no regular officers on several important posts like cardio-thoracic vascular surgery centre;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even at the administrative level, the Institute is faced with an extra ordinary type of *ad-hocism* from Deputy Director (A) to Medical Superintendent; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and when regular appointments would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Out of total 19 faculty members at the level of Assistant Professor who are working on *ad-hoc* basis in the Institute, no appointment on *ad-hoc* basis has been made in cardio-thoracic vascular surgery centre at AIIMS, New Delhi. No *ad-hoc* appointment in faculty posts have been made since July, 2003. The post of Deputy Director (Admn.) is a deputation post under the Central staffing pattern and action has been initiated to fill